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IBM boosts your memory

by **admin** posted on June 26, 2000 9:26 am

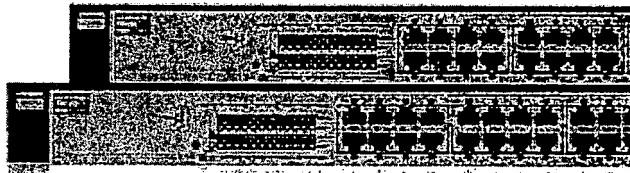
IBM is expected to announce its MXT technology today, which can make your computer seem as though it has twice the amount of memory. The new Memory eXpansion Technology uses a chip to code and compress data passing from the processor to the RAM; the data then takes up half the space it normally does, and frequently used data is stored in a new cache area.

MXT will initially be available in IBM's Netfinity servers, but ServerWorks Corp. will be making the technology available to other server makers once it licenses the technology from IBM. Pricing details have not been revealed yet, but IBM is targeting ISPs as potential buyers, seeing massive saving costs in memory for them.

Previous memory compression software used the processor to manipulate the data, which would take away precious processor cycles. IBM says that since MXT is hardware-based and not software-based, it is 10,000 times faster than

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old-style compression techniques.

For a little more info, please see the Associated Press article.

UPDATE 1 P.M. EDT

The IBM press release (thanks for the link, dannydel) gives a little more info on how MXT works, but the info is still bereft of true tech details. Statements in the press release make it unclear whether MXT is saving RAM or hard drive space or both. Here's one of the statements: "Less frequently accessed data and instructions are compressed and stored in memory instead of on a disk ? increasing memory capacity by a factor of two or more." I hope IBM clears this up soon.

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